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LETTER DATED 18 SEPTEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose a letter dated 18 September 1998 from the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, Mr. Wolfgang Schüssel, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

98-27784 (E) 220998

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Annex

Letter dated 18 September 1998 from the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the pleasure to write to you in my capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of the European Union (EU).

On the occasion of the meeting of the Security Council at the ministerial level on 24 September 1998, the European Union would like to reiterate its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for submitting his report dated 13 April 1998 on "The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/52/871-S/1998/318). The European Union highly values the holistic approach taken in the report, with the central focus on human security and human development. While looking forward to an in-depth discussion of the various aspects raised in the report in the respective United Nations forums, the European Union would like to make the following observations on areas which fall within the purview of the Security Council.

The European Union is fully committed to a proactive policy on conflict prevention and resolution, focusing on preventing the outbreak of violent conflicts at an early stage as well as on post-conflict peace-building and using the full range of policy instruments available. These goals are set out in the European Union's common position on conflict prevention and resolution in Africa and are complemented by the European Union's common position on human rights, good governance, democracy and the rule of law in Africa. Good governance, including the respect for human rights and the rule of law, are crucial elements for an environment in which durable peace, based on human security and human development, is sustained and economic growth promoted.

Early warning must be complemented by early action, such as well-focused diplomatic efforts at early stages in unfolding crises as well as humanitarian assistance and development aid as integral components of early action. The European Union is the largest donor of international humanitarian aid and the world's leading source of development assistance to Africa. We fully endorse the call of the Secretary-General for greater coordination in the provision of humanitarian assistance, which has to be fully consistent with broader United Nations peace and development activities. The European Union reiterates its strong concern for the safety and security of United Nations and related personnel as well as other international personnel, which have to be fully ensured.

The European Union welcomes the statement of the President of the Security Council of 16 September 1998 (S/PRST/1998/28), in which the Security Council, having the primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for international peace and security, affirmed, inter alia, the need to strengthen Africa's capacity to actively participate in all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including their military, police, humanitarian and other civilian components. We encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of

The primary responsibility for the future of Africa rests with the A
people and their leaders. The European Union is committed to assisting t
continent on its path to a peaceful and prosperous future.

(Signed) Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of
President of the Council of Minist
of the European Union